

Big Sky Libraries

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Montana State Library [MSL]

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Calendar

For more information on these and
other Montana Library events, visit
our web calendar:

<http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

June 4-9 - Summer Institute
2000, MSU-Billings Campus.
June 7-10 - LOEX of the West
2000: Creativity and the Art of
Library Instruction is the theme,
Montana State University in
Bozeman
June 14 - Montana State Library
Commission Meeting, Montana
State Library Conference Room -
Helena
August 9 - Montana State Library
Commission Meeting, location to be
announced
September 8-9 - Montana Festi-
val of the Book, Caras Park and en-
viroins, Missoula, MT
September 22-23 - 2000 Fall
Workshop [Second Annual] at
Lewistown. Training on various top-
ics for librarians.

New Proposals Request

At its April meeting, the Commission approved the following new proposals for the Governor's consideration. The Governor and his budget office review each of the proposals for inclusion in his budget for 2002-03. In early summer, MSL will know the Governor's decision and will send libraries more information about the proposals. For more information about the process, call Karen Strege at MSL.

1. **Provide a stable funding structure for NRIS.** General Fund, source agency contribution, and RIT increase. \$450,000.
2. **Build a sustainable info-structure for Montana's citizens**
Total legislative request: \$1,689,400
 - a. Maintain and expand the information products for all Montana libraries and citizens. \$475,000
 - b. Fund the statewide technology librarians. \$192,400
 - c. Increase and change the methodology to distribute state aid to public libraries. \$940,000
 - d. Fund a Government Information Locator System (GILS) at the Montana State Library. \$82,000
3. **Support necessary base adjustments in the budget of the State Library.** \$124,000 for biennium.

Montana Certification Program

Congratulations to the following library directors and staff members who were recently certified through the *Montana Certification Program*:

NEWLY CERTIFIED:

Mary Etta Parkinson, Bozeman
Judith Strong, Great Falls

RENEWED CERTIFICATION

Cynthia Rooley, Chester

If you would like a certification manual or have certification questions, please contact Diane Gunderson at 1-800-338-5087 or e-mail: dgunderson@state.mt.us.

A Word From Our State Librarian



Karen is on medical leave for a few weeks, unrelated to the activities documented below. Instead of her column, we offer the following random photos.



Karen's Schedule:

June 4-6 - MSL Summer Institute, Billings
June 1 - MGIC meeting, Butte
June 13 - MSL Commission Meeting, Helena



Karen in an unidentified country.



On May 2 and 3, 2000, for ALA Legislative Library Day, a Montana library delegation met with the Montana congressmen and/or their staff in Washington D.C. Shown here: Darlene Staffeldt, MSL, Mary Doggett, MSL Commission, Suzanne Goodman, Incoming MLA President, and Representative Rick Hill.

Karen plummets the wrestler from Chester, "Hefty Hessie" a.k.a. as Cindy Rooley, director of the Liberty County Library. In a decisive victory for bureaucrats from Helena, Strege ran like a wounded tiger and jumped like a toad, to raise funds for the Sheila Cates scholarship fund at the annual MLA conference. Jim Heckel, director of the Great Falls Library, started the drive to see the state librarian wrestle with a contribution of \$1.28. When asked to respond to the rumor that Rooley took a dive, Strege responded, "Ok then, let's take it outside".



Montana Library Network [MLN] News

Watch your library's mailbox for an OCLC enrollment form. This offer, exclusively for Montana libraries, replaces last year's LaserCat purchase arrangement and includes OCLC cataloging, interlibrary loan, and WorldCat's 43 million titles—all at a great fixed annual price. The deadline is June 14 to receive service by July 1, 2000. See: <http://msl.state.mt.us/mln/oclc-statewide.htm>.

The MLN 'Montana Union Catalog' gateway to Montana's online catalogs is on schedule, due to be online July 1, 2000. The Montana Union Catalog will let you search multiple catalogs, Gale/IAC databases, and OCLC's WorldCat all with the same interface (and if you wish, all at once).

Fifteen Montanaiana grants were received in response to MLN's first Montanaiana regrant program. Four grants will be awarded to Montana libraries, toward the creation of a standards-based digital library of Montana materials. For more information go to: <http://msl.state.mt.us/mln/mgrants1.htm>.

The shared catalog project continues to move along. We anticipate working with six or seven Highline libraries over the summer. Their catalogs should come online in early fall, sharing either Havre-Hill's or Great Falls Public's online public access catalog.

It's a busy, exciting time, to be an information cowboy.

2000 Montana Library Directory Transition Changes

PAGE	CITY	LIBRARY	CATEGORY	CHANGE
10	Anaconda	Hearst Free Library	Home Page	http://hosts2.in-tch.com/www.anacondamt.org/library.htm
12	Boulder	Boulder Community Library	Fax No.	406-225-3241
13	Chester	Liberty County Library	Director Email	library@ttc-cmc.net
19	Great Falls	Great Falls Public Library	Home Page	http://www.greatfallslibrary.org
20	Helena	Lewis & Clark Public Library	Email for Zimmerman	dzimmer@mtlib.org
21	Joliet	Joliet Community Library	New Director	Annette Worden
24	Miles City	Miles City Public Library	Director Email	mhamlett@mt.lib.org
25	Moore	Moore Memorial Library	New Director	Laura Pace
29	Superior	Mineral County Public Library	New Director	Patsy Foote
29	Superior	Mineral County Public Library	New Library Aide	Diane Gaston
	School Cover Page	School Libraries	No. of Schools	571
36	Billings	Billings Career Center	NUC & OCLC Codes	NUC: MtBiLS OCLC: YIX
36	Billings	Billings Senior High School	NUC & OCLC Codes	NUC: MtBiLS OCLC: YIX
36	Billings	Billings West High School	NUC & OCLC Codes	NUC: MtBiLS OCLC: YIX
39	Billings	Skyview High School	NUC & OCLC Codes	NUC: MtBiLS OCLC: YIX
40	Boulder	Jefferson High School	Home Page	http://jhs.k12.mt.us
40	Boulder	Jefferson High School	Thompson Email	dithompson@jhs.k12.mt.us
42	Broadus	Broadus Public School	Rebsom Email	ryan@broadus.net
43	Butte	East Middle School	Home Page	http://www.butte.k12.mt.us
49	East Helena	Eastgate Elementary School	Powell Email	Rpowell@ehelena.metnet.state.mt.us
49	East Helena	Eastgate Elementary School	Sandau Email	Rsandau@ehelena.metnet.state.mt.us
63	Laurel	Laurel High School	Home Page	http://www.laurel.k12.mt.us
77	Trout Creek	Trout Creek Elementary School	Home Page	http://www.montanaeducation.com/tc.htm

2000 Montana Library Directory Transition Changes – Continued

PAGE	CITY	LIBRARY	CATEGORY	CHANGE
82	Billings	Montana State University-Billings	Perusich Email	kperusich@msubillings.edu
83	Browning	Blackfeet Community College Library	New Assistant Librarian	Leona B. Skunk Cap
84	Butte	Montana Tech of the UM	Home Page	http://www.mtech.edu/library
84	Butte	Montana Tech of the UM	New Reference Librarian	Anne St. Clair, 406-496-4283, astclair@mtech.edu
84	Butte	Montana Tech of the UM	New Technical Services Clerk	Sandy Graham, 406-496-4286, sgraham@mtech.edu
84	Butte	Montana Tech of the UM	New Circulation Clerk	Angela Longfox, 406-496-4281, alongfox@mtech.edu
84	Butte	Montana Tech of the UM	New Position & Email	Technical Services Technician: Connie Daugherty, Email: cdaugherty@mtech.edu
85	Great Falls	College of Technology-MSU Great Falls	Librarians	Kaip and Vick No Longer at Library, No Librarian at this time.
86	Miles City	Miles Community College Library	Home Page	http://www.mcc.cc.mt.us/webpages/college_services/library.htm
90	Billings	St. Vincent Hospital Health Sciences Library	Home Page	http://www.sv-mt.org
91	Billings	TRIC/PLUK Library	Director Email	jsand@pluk.org
94	Helena	Montana State Library	State Librarian Email	kstrege@state.mt.us
96	Helena	State Law Library of Montana	Mecklenberg Email	imecklenberg@state.mt.us
96	Helena	State Law Library of Montana	Gibson Email	rgibson@state.mt.us
96	Miles City	Southeastern Montana Research Library	Home Page	http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Fields/6175/



The first Montana State Library Summer Institute will be held on the MSU-Billings Campus, June 4-9, 2000. The Institute is being funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The weeklong 2000 Institute is intended for directors of smaller public libraries, managers of branch libraries, and any directors new to the Montana library community. The Institute will assist public library administrators by enhancing their administrative skills and by further developing their leadership abilities. To date, 47 librarians have signed up to attend. The group will be housed in Petro Hall Dormitory and will spend the week together learning and networking with one another.

The application deadline was April 1st, but if you are interested in participating contact Sue Jackson (406-444-5350 or 1-800-338-5087 or sujackson@state.mt.us) about a possible vacancy or cancellation.

Gates Foundation Grants

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been very busy this spring in Montana, which is the fourteenth state to receive technology grants from the Foundation's Library Program. Seventy-seven Montana public libraries and their branches (a total of 103 library buildings) have received their grant checks from the Gates Foundation (totaling over \$800,000) and will soon be ordering the new public access computer equipment these grant funds allow them to purchase. A team of Gates Foundation staff have visited Montana and presented a series of "Before Your Computer Arrives" workshops for staff members of every library receiving a grant. In the next few weeks, these libraries will be ordering their computers and scheduling for the Gates teams to return to assist with installation and training in using the new computers and the special software these machines bring to the libraries.

Library Paraprofessionals

At the annual business meeting, which took place at the MLA conference, the Montana Library Paraprofessionals chose Rita Gibson to once more chair the group. Next year's conference, communication and continuing education opportunities were discussed. Some ideas mentioned for workshops at next year's MLA conference included supervising; paraprofessionals at the reference desk; and distance learning.

Communication continues to be the most challenging hurdle. Everyone's encouraged to periodically check MLA's web page (<http://www.mtlib.org>) under Interest Groups--Paraprofessionals to keep up on what's happening. Watch MLA's "Focus," MSL's "Big Sky Libraries" and OPI's "Montana Schools" and your mail and e-mail for updates. The possibility of an online discussion group for paraprofessionals was discussed.

Michael White, a trainer from the U.S. Patent & Trademark office in Washington DC will be presenting a hand-on, on-line Patent & Trademark Training Seminar in 3 Montana locations: May 15 at MSU-Billings; May 17 at Montana Tech in Butte; and May 19 MSU-COT Great Falls. This all day workshop is free, but space is limited. Please contact Marcia Lubick, MT Tech Butte at 496-4287 or mlubick@mtech.edu for more details.

Intern Mapmaker Shines

The NRIS program recently had the honor of Katie Thompson-Newell selecting the program for a volunteer internship. Katie is the daughter of the late Larry Thompson, the first director at the Natural Resource Information



System, and Sue and Bruce Newell. Her internship was sponsored through Helena High School as a "Career Exploratory Program".

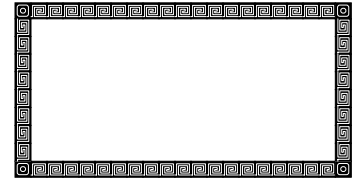
To give Katie a taste of a real-life work experience, she was given a wide variety of tasks that required a great deal of flexibility and willingness to learn. She was given tasks that ranged from answering the phone and photocopying to research, computer work and map-making using ArcView software. She also participated in planning implementation of "GIS Day," a day long program designed to help children and adults understand more fully computer-aided geographic information systems (GIS).

Katie did a great job! Our whole program benefited from Katie's internship. Not only did she contribute her time, talent and energy, but all of us loved her exuberance and cheerful presence. NRIS extends a very heartfelt **thank you** to Katie!





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Karen Strege, State Librarian

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Sue Jackson, enjoying a
day on the water.

Spotlight: Sue Jackson, Federal Grants/ Institutions Consultant

Through the years, Sue has worked in several Helena libraries including the Montana Historical Society, Carroll College and Shodair Children's Hospital. Sue has worked for MSL's Statewide Library Resources Program since October 1997. Originally hired to coordinate the federal grant program for the state, Sue is currently working on a variety of library development projects including the Summer Institute, Fall Workshop, Collection Management Honor Roll, and Gates Foundation grant program.

A long-term project Sue has been assigned is the review and processing of several hundred boxes of MSL historical records stored at the state's Old Liquor Warehouse building. "It's an interesting place to work – a dark and dusty cubicle. The records are fascinating, with some items dating back as early as 1905." When the project is completed, the records will be transferred to the State Archives. "Once I have the records arranged and an inventory in place, researchers will be able to sift through MSL's history and know what an impact the agency has had statewide on libraries, education, literacy, information use, automation, and more."

Working at MSL is a family affair for Sue. Both of her parents, Forrest and Elisabeth, volunteer in MSL's Talking Book Library program. "They both have seniority over me – I came to MSL last."

For fun, Sue likes to travel and enjoys Montana's many hiking, birding, canoeing and backpacking opportunities.

Sue Jackson [middle] and her parents,
Forrest and Elisabeth Jackson.

